

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ROME 04302 162110Z

12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 /060 W

----- 036957

R 161646Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6384

INFO DIA WASHDC

USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

USDOCOSOUTH FOR INTAF

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 4302

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJ: DC CONGRESS - VIEWS OF THREE 'REFORM' LEADERS

1. DURING THE PAST WEEK I HAVE HAD LENGTHY MEETINGS WITH THREE SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE THIRD GENERATION OF THE DC, I.E.H THOSE IMMEDIATELY BELOW MORO, RUMOR, COLOMBO, ANDREOTTI, IN AGE AND EXPERIENCE. ALL THREE ARE MINISTERS IN PRESENT GOVERNMENT AND ARE GENERALLY IDENTIFIED AS PRO-REFORM AND RENEWAL AND THEY ARE MEMBERS OF THE SMALL GROUP THAT WILL HAVE TO LEAD THE FIGHT FOR REFORM IF THAT FIGHT IS TO BE SUCCESSFULLY WAGED AT THE UPCOMING DC CONGRESS. THIS MESSAGE REPORTS THEIR VIEWS ON THE DC CONGRESS AND RELATED ISSUES.

2. REFORM AND RENEWAL: IN THE COURSE OF EACH OF THESE CONVERSATIONS, I FOUND OCCASION TO EXPRESS TO EACH OF THEM THE GREAT IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO THE DC MAKING A REAL BEGINNING ON REFORM AND RENEWAL IN THE UPCOMING CONGRESS. ALL AGREED IN PRINCIPLE, BUT EXPRESSED WORRY THAT A FIGHT FOR BASIC CHANGES (E.G., DIRECT ELECTION AT THE CONGRESS OF THE SECRETARY) COULD WELL SPLIT THE PARTY. WHILE AGREEING THAT A FUNDAMENTAL SPLIT IN THE PARTY WAS NOT DESIRABLE, I ARGUED FEAR OF IT WAS NOT A SIFFICIENT REASON FOR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ROME 04302 162110Z

DOING NOTHING. IF THE DC GOES BACK TO THE VOTERS WITH THE SAME

OLD IMAGE, I SAID, THE RESULTS WILL PROBABLY BE DISASTROUS. IT IS THEREFORE IMPORTANT THAT THE DC MAKE A START ON THE OVERHAULING THAT ALL AGREE IS NECESSARY. MY THREE INTERLOCUTORS EXPRESSED VARYING DEGREES OF ENTHUSIASM FOR LEADING A FIGHT FOR REFORM; SOME ARE OBVIOUSLY NOT INCLINED TO LEAD A FIGHT THAT MIGHT FAIL AND ALL PROFESS TO BE GREATLY CONCERNED ABOUT PARTY UNITY. I HAVE BEEN TRYING TO ENCOURAGE THEM, IN RATHER STRONG TERMS, TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE DC CONGRESS IS PROBABLY THE PARTY'S LAST CHANCE AND THAT IT IS BETTER TO MAKE A FIGHT IN A WORTHY CAUSE WHILE THERE IS STILL TIME THAN TO AVOID IT AND HAVE THE WHOLE PARTY GO DOWN IN DEFEAT. I THINK I HAVE SUCCEEDED IN ENCOURAGING THEM TO THINK SERIOUSLY ABOUT THE NEED FOR LEADERSHIP OF A REFORM PROGRAM, BUT I STILL FIND IT HARD TO BE OPTIMISTIC THAT THE DC WILL IN FACT COME OUT OF THE CONGRESS WITH A NEW IMAGE AND THE VIGOR AND WILL TO CARRY THE BATTLE TO THE COMMUNISTS.

3. THE DC SECRETARYSHIP: THE ONLY APPARENT CANDIDATES ARE ZACCAGNINI (THE PRESENT SECRETARY) AND FORLANI (PRESENTLY MINDEF). ALL THREE OF MY INTERLOCUTORS DOUBTED THAT THESE TWO MEN WOULD ENGAGE IN AN OPEN BATTLE FOR THE SECRETARYSHIP, AGAIN PARTLY BECAUSE OF THE NEED FOR PARTY UNITY. ALL THREE TEND TO FAVOR FORLANI.

4. THE SOCIALISTS: ALL THREE RECOGNIZED THAT AFTER THE NEXT ELECTIONS THAT DC WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO TRY TO WORK TOGETHER WITH THE SOCIALISTS. WHILE EXPRESSING SOME SCEPTICISM ABOUT WHETHER THE SOCIALISTS REALLY KNOW WHAT THEY WANT (AS DISTINGUISHED FROM WHAT THEY DON'T WANT), THEY ALL SEEM AGREED THAT THE SOCIALIST PARTY LEADERS ALSO SEES THAT THE MOST SATISFACTORY CHOICE FOR IT IS IN COOPERATION WITH THE DC. ALL ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT THE DC WILL HAVE TO MAKE SOME SUBSTANTIAL CONCESSIONS TO THE SOCIALISTS IF FUTURE COOPERATION OF THE TWO PARTIES IS TO BE FRUITFUL. ONE EXPRESSED DOUBT ABOUT THE SOCIALISTS' FREQUENTLY EXPRESSED ANTICIPATION OF LARGE GAINS IN THE NEXT PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS.

5. EARLY ELECTIONS: ALL WERE CAUTIOUS ON THE SUBJECT OF EARLY ELECTIONS, BASICALLY SAYING THAT IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO PREDICT THEIR TIMING UNTIL AFTER THE DC CONGRESS. AT THE SAME TIME, IT IS CLEAR THAT ALL THREE ARE GIVING CAREFUL THOUGHT TO HAVE ELECTIONS IN JUNE. VOLPE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, PARTY UNITY, GOVERNMENT REFORM, PARTY LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ROME04302
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760100-0042
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760356/aaaabxfe.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 APR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <27 AUG 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DC CONGRESS - VIEWS OF THREE 'REFORM' LEADERS
TAGS: PINT, IT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006